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with the Regional Transport Authority. Of course the amending Act is pending assent of the Governor-General; till then we cannot take any further action."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, why is it this subject has not been expunged from the agenda even after eight months after the High Court ruling and *status quo ante* restored? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" It is not a matter that can be inquired into by Government; for that body is a statutory body."

Illicit transport of foodgrains by motor lorries.

* 102 *Q*.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether action was being taken hitherto against the owners of motor lorries who were using them for illicit transport of foodgrains against the control orders and whether the permits were being cancelled or suspended;

(*b*) whether the Government have recently passed a specific rule to the effect that such licences cannot be cancelled or suspended unless there was an express condition therein to the effect that they should not be used for the purpose of illicit transport of foodgrains; and if so, whether the Government will place the full text of the new rule on the table of the House;

(*c*) whether Regional Transport Authority, Bellary, had taken proceedings against Sri Machani Somappa of Yemmiganur for cancellation or suspension of the permits in respect of his lorries for having transported foodgrains illegally in July 1947 and subsequently and whether the said proceedings were being adjourned from time to time;

(*d*) whether the said proceedings were dropped at a meeting of the Regional Transport Authority held on 2nd July 1948 on account of the new rule referred to above;

(*e*) what the reasons for the promulgation of the new rule are and whether there was any representation made for such promulgation, and if so, by whom; and

(*f*) whether the Government have taken any action for setting aside the forfeitures and suspensions of permits already made by the various Regional Transport Authorities before the promulgation of the new rule?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) No new rule was issued but only instructions clarifying the scope of the existing provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act relating to cancellation or suspension of permits were issued.

" (*c*) The proceedings referred to were taken against one Machani Gangappa and not Machani Somappa.

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"(d) The proceedings instituted against Sri Machani Gangappa were dropped by the R.T.A., Bellary, on 5—7—1948.

"(e) The question does not arise in view of the answer to clause (b).

"(f) The question does not arise in view of the answers to clauses (b) and (e)."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Sir, what was the necessity for the clarification when so many permits were being suspended and cancelled during the course of these two years after the control orders came into operation? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" When doubts were expressed by subordinate authorities, certainly clarifications have to be issued."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know if cases for illicit transport of foodgrains have been disposed of? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I would request the hon. Member to put a separate question."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Is it not a fact that numerous permits were suspended and cancelled during the course of the last eighteen months? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Presumably the hon. Member from Bellary knows more about it than Government."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is it fair that the Regional Transport Authority should cancel or suspend a permit when a case against the holder thereof is pending? "

No answer.

Printing presses in the Presidency.

* 103 *Q.*—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) the number of printing presses (i) in Madras City and (ii) in the Presidency outside the City;

(b) whether there is any proposal before the Government at present not to grant permission for starting new printing presses and, if so, for what reasons; and

(c) whether there are any restrictions against existing printing presses from being removed from one locality to another?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (a) 339 and 980 respectively.

" (b) In view of the acute scarcity of white printing paper, in the Province due to short supplies made by Paper Mills in recent months, the Government decided early in July 1948, not to grant permission for operating new printing presses until the supply position of paper eased. The Government